

GSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) - Meeting Notes – 26/06/2025

Participants:

CARE International (Step Haiselden), NRC (Amelia Rule), UNHCR (Francesca Coloni), IFRC (Ela Serdaroglu), IOM (Diana Carolina Cordero-Scales), CRS (Jamie Richardson and Eva Maria Suarez Castro), Habitat for Humanity (Mario Flores), DRC (Xavier Jean Andre Denis Desplans), GSC (Caroline Dewast, Seki Hirano, Mamen Sancha)

Excused/Absent: ACTED / IMPACT Initiatives

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction of new SAG member (Xavier – DRC)
2. Review of Action Points from May SAG Meeting
3. Indicator mapping exercise - update
4. Country Cluster Highlights – Bangladesh, DRC, South Sudan
5. Humanitarian Reset Update and Discussion
6. Review and Endorsement of GSC Extreme Heat Statement
7. Any

Other	Business	(AOB):
Annual	Meeting	Planning
Agency		Updates

 - WG / CoP Events and Updates

Summary of Action Points

- SAG–CCCM Joint Meeting: Agreed to explore a joint SAG session following upcoming coordination.
- Reimagined cluster: GSC and SAG to agree on a day the following week for a dedicated session for agencies to comment about the governance model and leadership of the cluster.
- Extreme Heat Statement: Document to be shared in with SAG members in collective document to comment.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Xavier Jean Andre Denis Desplans (DRC) introduced as new SAG participant. Based in Japan, he serves as Wash and Shelter Specialist for DRC’s emergency team.

It was shared also the updated list of SAG agencies representatives and alternates, available [here](#).

2. Review of Action Points from May SAG Meeting

- Ethiopia Shelter-Education Advocacy: exchanged with the SC team in Ethiopia. Education cluster was not interested. Supported the SC in the development of communication products disseminated via GSC linkedin.
- GSC Strategy 2030: Continue using for positioning; no formal launch planned until the humanitarian reset process is clearer – ongoing.
- Review of SAG ToR: Remains on hold during humanitarian reset – ongoing.

- Environmental Paper: Superseded by the environment section in the Strategy 2030 – no further action.
- Area-Based Programming: USWG core group continues discussions; SAG members can engage via that forum – ongoing.
- Website Development: Continue with adaptable design to new cluster structure – ongoing.
- Cluster Naming Survey: Survey conducted via EasyRetro platform – results discussed; next steps pending.

3. Indicator mapping exercise - update

Key updates were presented to the SAG about the progress on indicator mapping where over 50 indicators have been categorized by intervention type and aligned with Shelter Severity Classification pillars. A supporting guideline has been developed and the updated [dashboard](#) is now available on the Shelter Cluster homepage, enabling more in-depth analysis.

SAG members are encouraged to provide feedback about the dashboard and the factsheet to improve the analysis or the communication of the information shared.

4. Country Cluster Highlights and updates

Bangladesh: the SC Coordinator from Bangladesh, Zahirul Alam coord1.bd@sheltercluster.org, presented a comprehensive overview of the shelter situation in the country. As one of the most disaster-prone nations, Bangladesh faces recurring shelter challenges, with over 650,000 homes damaged in recent disasters. The Shelter Cluster, active since 2012 and supported by the government under the Standing Order on Disaster, has been implementing major initiatives such as pre-crisis data mapping using Census 2022 and a nationwide Shelter Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment covering 3,000+ households across 20 districts. These data-driven efforts aim to inform preparedness and anticipatory actions, despite a 38% reduction in shelter funding and major staffing cuts.

Democratic Republic of Congo: more than 1.7 million people have been displaced since early 2025, with operational capacity severely reduced—shelter partners dropped from 15 to just 5. Only 2.5% of prioritized households in North Kivu were assisted, and coverage in South Kivu stands at 0%. Urgent priorities include restoring shelter/NFI support in key return hubs and ensuring local NGOs are resourced for coordination. HLP support mentioned as very important in this operation. Further details [here](#)

South Sudan: over 2 million people remain at risk amid compounding humanitarian crises and limited resources. The cluster emphasized the need for donor support in high-risk areas like Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity, and for reinforcement of mobile response actors such as IOM, NRC, and DRC. Further details [here](#)

5. Humanitarian Reset and Reimagined Cluster

Overview update on the ongoing discussions following the ERC statement and the recent IASC Principals and GCCG meetings. The SAG reiterated its strong interest in actively contributing to the design of the future cluster structure and emphasized the importance of involving the SAG/DCG in shaping the proposed changes. There was broad support for a tentative new name, "Homes & Communities"

The proposed 6 core areas of work of the cluster at this moment include Shelter & EHI, Settlements & area-based planning, Community Engagement & Accountability, Housing, Land and Property (HLP), Environment & climate resilience, and Energy. Members also reflected on the potential implications such a shift could have on agency programming and coordination models. A joint SAG with CCCM is being considered and is expected to move forward soon. Clear communication with the wider cluster membership was highlighted as a key next step to ensure transparency and inclusivity in the transition process.

IOM shared the willingness of the agency to lead the new cluster. Given the fact there was not enough time for all agencies to comment on their vision it was agreed to postpone that conversation to a dedicated session on this the following week.

Extreme Heat Statement

IFRC presented the newly developed Extreme Heat in Humanitarian Context Statement, emphasizing its timely relevance, particularly for operations in climate-sensitive and heat-prone regions. The document was well received, with participants recognizing its importance in the context of increasing global temperatures and the growing frequency of extreme heat events. Some members provided initial comments and suggestions during the discussion. It was agreed that the document would be shared in a format that allows all SAG members to review and provide comments collaboratively within the same version, ensuring a collective and coordinated input process.

AOB

Annual Shelter Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for September (virtual). Discussed the possibility to organize a mini-SAG in conjunction.

1st Francophone Shelter Network Forum: will happen in physically in Lomé the from the 1st to the 3rd of July and also possible to join virtually.